

AGREED TO CONSOLIDATE.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WILMINGTON GAS LIGHT CO.

The stockholders met yesterday and agreed on terms of consolidation with the Wilmington Seacoast Railroad Company and the Wilmington Street Railway Company. The stockholders of the other companies to meet today to consider the plans for union.

A special meeting of the stockholders of the Wilmington Gaslight Company was held yesterday morning at 11 o'clock at the office of Messrs. Hugh MacRae & Company.

The object of the meeting was to take action with regard to the plans to consolidate that company with the Wilmington Seacoast Railroad Company and the Wilmington Street Railway Company. The stockholders agreed on the terms for the consolidation, and now it is up to the other two companies.

A meeting of the stockholders of the Wilmington Seacoast Railroad Company will be held this morning at 11 o'clock and the stockholders of the Street Railway Company will meet at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon to consider consolidation.

Evidently the consolidation means the conversion of the Wilmington Seacoast Railroad into a trolley line.

The Messenger predicts that in less than a week work will be begun in constructing the electric line from Wilmington to Wrightsville Beach.

CONSOLIDATION EFFECTED

CONSOLIDATED RAILWAY'S, LIGHT-ING AND POWER CO.

Stockholders of the Seacoast Railroad and the Wilmington Street Railway held meetings and agreed on the legal measures for consolidation with the Wilmington Gaslight Company—Capital \$500,000. Officers of the Company.

The Messenger on yesterday mentioned that the Wilmington Gaslight Company met on Tuesday and agreed on plans and legal measures to effect a consolidation with the Wilmington Seacoast Railroad Company and the Wilmington Street Railway Company.

Yesterday morning at 11 o'clock the stockholders of the Wilmington Seacoast Railroad Company held a special meeting and agreed on consolidation and authorized their officers to take the legal steps necessary to carry out the plans for consolidation.

At 3:30 p. m., the stockholders of the Wilmington Street Railway Company also had a special meeting and agreed to the consolidation plans and authorized their executive committee to carry out the consolidation under the act of the last general assembly, amending the charter of the Wilmington Gaslight Company permitting the consolidation.

We understand that the proper statement of the transaction is that the Wilmington Seacoast Railroad and the Wilmington Gaslight Company have consolidated with the Wilmington Street Railway Company. The name of the consolidated corporation is "Consolidated Railways, Lighting and Power Company," and the capital stock is \$600,000.

Under the terms of consolidation the following are the officers of the company:

President—Hugh MacRae.
Vice President—M. E. H. Gouverneur.
Directors—George R. French, M. J. Heyer, G. Herbert Smith, W. N. Woodward, Walter L. Parsley, C. W. Worth, Oscar Pearsall, J. V. Grainger, W. R. Kenan, James H. Chadbourne, Junius Davis, M. F. H. Gouverneur, W. W. Randolph, Charles P. Bolles, Jr., and Hugh MacRae.

The other officers will be as follows: Consulting Engineer—W. W. Randolph, of New York.
General Manager—A. B. Skelving.
Secretary—Harry Woolcott.
Treasurer—Richard J. Jones.

No statement is authorized as to the conversion of the Wilmington Seacoast Railroad into an electric line but from the way the straws are floating just now we venture to predict that up-to-date trolley cars will be running to Wrightsville Beach in two months.

GENERAL FUNSTON, REDUCED

By the President for Criticizing the Conduct of Senator Hoar.

Washington, April 23.—By direction of President Roosevelt, acting Secretary of War Sanger has addressed the following letter to General Frederick Funston:

"War Department, Washington, April 23.
"Sir:—I am directed by the president to instruct you that he wishes you to cease further public discussion of the situation in the Philippines and also to express his regret that you should make a senator of the United States the object of public criticism or discussion. Very Respectfully,
"WILLIAM CARY SANGER,
"Acting Secretary of War."

"To Brigadier General Funston, Commanding Department of the Colorado, Denver, Col.
At a banquet last Saturday of the Colorado Sons of the Revolution, General Funston is reported to have said of Senator Hoar:

"I have only sympathy for the senior senator from Massachusetts who is suffering from an overworked conscience. Probably what caused the issue of this particular letter was an application from General Funston for leave of absence in order that he might attend the banquet to be given in Boston by the Middlesex Club. The request for leave of absence was refused and the president telegraphed General Funston not to speak at the Middlesex banquet. A copy of Mr. Sanger's letter was forwarded to Senator Hoar.

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL SOON BE IN PROGRESS.

The County Executive Committee met yesterday and called the Primary Election to be held in New Hanover to nominate candidates from Senator Down to Constable. First Primary May 27th and the Second May 29th—The County Convention called for May 31st.

The democratic executive committee of New Hanover county met yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the office of Mr. W. B. McKoy, in the Smith building on Princess street, to call the democratic primary election and to fix a date for the holding of the county convention.

The members of the committee in attendance were Messrs. E. F. Johnson, G. Herbert Smith, W. E. Springer, J. D. Kelley, J. G. L. Gischen, D. J. Ferguson, Geo. T. Bland, A. O. McEachern, George Thienken and E. S. Lathrop. County Chairman E. F. Johnson presided, and secretary J. D. Kelley acted in that capacity.

The committee decided to call the democratic primary election in New Hanover county for May 27th and fixed May 29th for the second primary if all nominations are not made at the first primary. The voters will be given the preference of voting for their choice for United States senator and congressman, all state officers and all county officers down to constable. Every county office is to be filled at the November election and nominations will be made for the various positions at the primaries.

The committee called the county convention for May 31st to elect delegates to the state, congressional and judicial conventions. The state convention is to be held at Greensboro July 16th and the congressional district is to meet at Fayetteville next Wednesday to call a convention to nominate a candidate for congress.

BEAUTIFUL WEDDINGS.

Mr. D. H. Glaughon and Miss Daisy Orestes King were married at Grace M. E. Church yesterday afternoon—Mr. Oscar Ellis and Miss Mamie Batson plighted their troth last night.

There was a pretty church wedding yesterday at 6:30 p. m. at Grace M. E. church, the contracting couple being Mr. D. H. Glaughon and Miss Daisy Orestes King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. King, and quite a popular young lady of our city.

The church was crowded with the friends of the couple and the decorations were exceedingly pretty. The altar was a mass of palms of several varieties, and the edifice was brilliantly lighted for the happy affair.

Miss Fannie Corbett presided at the organ and while awaiting the coming of the bride party she artistically rendered a selection from "Cujus Animam" (Rossini) and a "March From Tanhauser" (Wagner). When the bride party arrived they entered the church to the inspiring measures of the Bridal chorus from Lehengrin. The ushers led the way—Messrs. Herman Meredith and Albert Doshier going down the western aisle and Messrs. Frank King, brother of the bride, and Clifford Hopkins advancing by the eastern aisle. Following the ushers down the western aisle came the bride accompanied by the maid of honor, Miss Blanche Chadwick. After the ushers on the eastern aisle came the groom accompanied by his best man and brother, Mr. J. O. McGlaughon.

At the altar, the couple presented themselves to the Rev. John M. Cole who tied the nuptial knot in a most impressive manner. Then Mendelssohn's wedding march swelled from the organ and the bride party made its exit. The bride was attired in a handsome tailor-made mode broadcloth goingaway gown with a lovely hat to match, and carried a magnificent bouquet of bride roses and maiden-hair ferns.

The maid of honor wore a becoming dress of white organdy, trimmed with lace and satin ribbons, and had a handsome black hat. She carried pink carnations and maiden hair ferns.

The couple received many handsome presents. They left on the 7 p. m. train for Washington, D. C. and will thence go to Charleston to see the exposition. They will be at home May 3rd at 711 Grace street.

PRETTY HOME WEDDING.

One of the prettiest home weddings seen in Wilmington in many a day occurred last night at 9 o'clock at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Batson, 503 Walnut street. With a large party of friends to witness the happy affair, their lovely daughter Miss Mamie Elizabeth Batson, was wedded to Mr. Louis Oscar Ellis, all of this city. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. John H. Hall while the couple stood before an improvised altar of ferns, Easter lilies and cut flowers. The walls of the parlor were tastefully decorated with wild smilax.

When the marriage vows had been taken, felicitations were showered upon the happy couple. The bride was attired in a beautiful accordeon pleated white organdy dress, elaborately trimmed with satin ribbon and lace. She bore a lovely bouquet of white carnations, roses and maiden hair ferns.

After the reception, choice refreshments were served. The dining room was attractively decorated with wild smilax and the table was ornamented with cut flowers.

The couple received numerous handsome and useful presents. They will reside on Ninth street between Princess and Chestnut streets.



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GOLDSBORO GOSSIP.

Good Crop of Candidates for County Offices—A Newspaper of Ancient Date—Fishermen Having Good Luck.

(Correspondence of The Messenger.)
Goldsboro, N. C., April 22.

With the approach of spring comes the county candidates for county offices. Already there are two who have publicly announced themselves for the sheriff's office and there are other possibilities in the woods who will come out before the convention is convened. It is the general opinion here that if the Southern Bell Telephone Company comes to Goldsboro and puts up a long distance line the Inter-State Company, which now has the field to itself and has a long distance line will abandon their long distance connection which is very poor at best. It is only on rare occasions when subscribers in this city can talk to Raleigh.

Editor Whiteley, of The Wayne County Advertiser, has in his possession a copy of a newspaper printed in New Bern one hundred and fifteen years ago. It is The State Gazette of North Carolina and was published by Hodge Blanchard on October 4, 1787. Three pages of the paper are taken up with the publication of the constitution of the United States. The paper would be a gem for curiosity seekers.

Much interest is being taken in the coming performance of "The Rivals" by the Agricultural and Mechanical college dramatic club, of Raleigh. The date for their appearance here is Friday night. Aside from the merit of the performance, which is said to be sufficient to draw a crowded house, Goldsboro has a further interest in the play because Wayne county has a large delegation at the college, and for this reason a great many will attend the show.

Local sports who are fond of hook and line fishing are reaping a harvest in Little river just now, where the perch are plentiful and "bite" freely. Every day crowds can be seen making their way to the river with fishing poles, and they return in the afternoon with a small bunch of fish.

DESTROYING LETTER BOXES.

A Wake County Man Bound Over to Federal Court for This Offense—A Locomotive Engineer's Narrow Escape.

Messenger Bureau,
Raleigh, N. C., April 22.

There was a trial here this morning before a United States commissioner of a man charged with breaking a rural free delivery mail delivery box. He was sent on to court, and an example will be made of him. He was a countryman, who committed the offense "out of reckless wantonness," as a witness testified.

H. L. Grant, now the clerk of the United States district court will after May 21st, when the registration of N. J. Riddick as clerk of the United States circuit court takes effect, assume the duties of that office.

The superior court here devoted today to the hearing of the suit of Robert O. King, civil action \$40,000, against the Seaboard Air Line for \$40,000 damages for injuries sustained in a wreck last September. The railway contends that train wreckers pulled the spikes, for the purpose of causing the wreck. The state charges the Durham roller bearing company with the act. Julian S. Carr and others stockholders.

The Raleigh base ball league team has arrived and began practice today. The governor offers \$200 reward for the unknown persons who burned a negro school house at Thomasville.

Engineer Buckner, of Raleigh, had a wonderful escape from death in the railway wreck Sunday afternoon. His engine ran into a switch, which a half-witted boy had opened. It struck cars loaded with lumber. The engine's cab was cut half in two, the cab sheared off, but he leaped far back and as the engine stopped the lumber was in an inch of his face.

GOVERNOR AYCOCK ON EDUCATION

Other Prominent Speakers—Reception and Banquet at Hotel La Fayette.

(Correspondence of The Messenger.)
Fayetteville, April 22.

A brilliant reception, in the beautiful parlors and corridors of the Hotel La Fayette, was tendered last evening from 8:30 to 11 o'clock in honor of Governor Aycock, Superintendent Joyner, President Winston, Commissioner Patterson, Honorable S. B. Alexander, Professor Holmes and other distinguished visitors. Between those hours hundreds of the representative citizens of Fayetteville and Cumberland paid their respects to the governor of North Carolina and his colleagues.

Remsburg's orchestra gave fine music during the evening, and at 11:30 o'clock played a march as the entry of the guests into the handsomely decorated supper room, where Captain J. D. McNeill presided at the head of the table as toastmaster, and the divine blessing on the feast was invoked by Mr. F. R. Rose. An elegant menu was offered for the enjoyment of the guests. Captain J. D. McNeill proposed the following toasts, responded to in the order named: "Our Governor," by Hon. G. M. Rose, very eloquently; "The Campaign of Education," by J. H. My-

rover; "Commerce as a Factor in Education," by Mr. A. H. Slocumb, president of the chamber of commerce, in very forceful words; "The New South in Education," by Mr. H. L. Cook, gracefully; "The Legislature," by Mr. J. R. McKethan, in most entertaining style; "The Women of North Carolina," by Governor Aycock, whose tribute was thrilling and magnetic; "The Boys and Girls of North Carolina," by Superintendent Joyner, who held the closest attention of the audience; "Our Guests," by Captain J. D. McNeill, a warm-hearted greeting, and one of the happiest efforts of the evening.

The open weather has no doubt had the effect of diminishing the attendance at the convention, but the great armory nevertheless held a large crowd at noon, when Rev. Isaac W. Hughes, rector of St. John's Episcopal church, offered impressive prayer, and Major E. J. Hale, presiding over the convention, in words replete with scholarly finish and simple diction introduced Governor Aycock. The latter was talking at an educational rally, and he stuck close to his subject. It was but a few moments when it became evident that his hearers were in hearty accord and sympathy with him; that they were glad to hear his cordial support to a chief magistrate who declared his unalterable purpose to devote his administration to the advancement of the education of all the people of his state. Governor Aycock's speech abounded in happy hits, and in the genial humor that largely inspired his remarks, but over and above all this it was a very powerful and carefully considered argument for the campaign of education.

Hon. John D. Bellamy and Sheriff Frank H. Stedman, of Wilmington, were welcome visitors to Fayetteville yesterday. Hon. D. H. McLean, of Harnett county, secretary of the State Board of Education, and North Carolina railroad, is here today, and greeted by many warm friends.

The Dun cornet band has gained many admirers among our people by the excellence of its music.

Tonight the governor addresses the colored people at Evans Metropolitan Chapel and in the court room speeches will be made by Superintendent Joyner and President Winston.

GOLDSBORO GOSSIP.

Jones-Gilson Wedding—A Wreck on the Coast Line's Main Line—Delightful Entertainment.

(Correspondence of The Messenger.)
Goldsboro, N. C., April 23.

Hon. George E. Hood, the young mayor of Goldsboro, who will deliver the address in Wilmington next week upon the celebration of the anniversary of Odd Fellowship, will deliver an address at Warsaw tomorrow afternoon upon the same subject. On both occasions he will measure up to the expectations of his audience.

The marriage of Mr. Marcus L. Jones to Miss Daisy Gilson, daughter of Mr. D. E. Gilson, occurred this evening at 8 o'clock at Elm Street Chapel. The groom is a young mechanic employed at the Goldsboro furniture factory. They both reside in eastern Goldsboro, where they will continue to make their home, and where they have many friends who extend congratulations.

People along the Southern railway between this city and Selma were at a loss to know why the Coast Line's heavy passenger trains should come their way yesterday afternoon. It was a record breaker. Nothing of the kind has ever been seen before. A wrecked freight train on the "Short Cut" between Wilson and Selma caused both the north and southbound Coast Line trains to come through Goldsboro and go by way of the Southern to Selma, where they took the main line again.

There was a delightful social function at the Olympia Club last night, complimentary to the young ladies of the city, who participated in large numbers. The game of the evening was "hearts."

Mr. G. H. Holt has placed material on the ground for the erection of a brick building on the corner of West Center and Ashe streets, which is just across the street from the proposed location of the city hall.

ATTACK ON JUSTICE CLARK.

Major Jas. W. Wilson's Open Letter. The Soldiers' Home—College Base Ball Teams.

Messenger Bureau,
Raleigh, N. C., April 23.

The soldiers' home is filling rapidly and in a few weeks will be full to its capacity. It is quite probable that the next legislature will provide for another dormitory. At least one more is needed.

County Buchanan having resigned as county superintendent of the Southern Railway, J. C. Howard is appointed to that position.

It is the belief that in a fortnight the \$25,000 necessary to make up Raleigh's subscription to the railway from here to Washington, D. C. will be placed.

The big advance in western meats is attracting much attention among dealers. Fortunately very little fresh meat from the west is sold here, as it is not popular. The advance in price of meat sold here is 2 cents pound.

Trinity college base ball team appears to be easily the chief among the college teams in this state. Even Wake Forest is no match for it at all.

Today a signed open letter to the public by Major James W. Wilson, attacking Justice Clark, was sent out. There is talk of ex-Judge Shipperd or Judge Michael Justice being put up as a nominee for chief justice.

CONDITION OF THE NEGRO.
Senator DeBoc's Bill for a Commission of Investigation.

Washington, April 23.—Senator DeBoc today introduced a bill creating a commission to inquire into the condition of the colored people of the United States. The bill provides for a comprehensive investigation into the condition of the people of the negro race, including an inquiry into their educational progress and the best means of promoting harmony between the races.

The bill provides for a commission of five persons to be nominated by the president and to be paid salaries of \$2,500 each.

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EDUCATIONAL GATHERINGS.

The Governor to the Colored People. Addresses in the Court Room. Resolution of Thanks to Senators. Social Functions.

(Correspondence of The Messenger.)
Fayetteville, A. R., 23.

There was a very remarkable outpouring of the best element of the colored people at Evans chapel last evening, the meeting presided over by Professor E. E. Smith, president of the State Colored Normal school, with the interest of the exercises greatly enhanced by very fine music. Governor Aycock was accompanied by Rev. Isaac W. Hughes, rector of St. John's church, Major E. J. Hale, and State Senator J. D. McNeill, the latter introducing him to his audience.

The governor's speech, which was exceptionally broad and statesmanlike, evidently greatly pleased his hearers, whose attention was unflagging, and their applause hearty. When he concluded he was thanked in brief talks by Professor E. E. Smith, F. W. Thurston, superintendent of the silk mills, and Rev. W. J. Slides, pastor of the church. Then hundreds went up to the platform to pay their respects to the governor.

In the county court room, with Mr. H. McD. Robinson as the able chairman, there was an educational meeting at 8:30 o'clock last evening, where addresses were delivered by President Winston, a very brilliant and magnetic speaker; Professor Noble, who has long been a favorite with Fayetteville people, and who increased his admirers by his effort, and Superintendent Joyner, whose speech showed his equipment for his great work.

A meeting of the citizens of Fayetteville was held at noon today in the parlors of the Hotel LaFayette, where Governor Aycock was present, presided over by Major E. J. Hale, with Mr. N. Tillinghast as secretary, at which the following resolution, offered by the committee appointed for the purpose, Messrs. L. K. Nimocks, F. R. Rose, I. A. Murchison and J. H. Myrover, was unanimously passed: That

"We tender our thanks to our senators in congress for their services in the upper Cape Fear navigation scheme; that we thoroughly appreciate its paramount importance to the commercial, industrial and agricultural interests of the Cape Fear section and to the people of North Carolina generally, and that we earnestly request them to the senate conferees to hold on without yielding."

There was a pleasant german last evening, complimentary to the distinguished visitors in the city, with Remsburg's orchestra giving fine music, and Mr. J. C. Thompson and Miss Mary Warren leading the dancing. The guests were: Mr. J. C. Thompson, Miss Wheeler, of Fairbault, Minn., and M. C. Rose; Miss McKay and Mr. A. R. Williams; Miss Lillian Slocumb and Mr. A. B. Williams, Jr.; Miss Margaret McNeill and Mr. Bailey Evans; Miss Bessie McNeill and Mr. J. B. Tillinghast; Miss Ellen Underwood and Mr. E. Pemberton; Miss Bessie Underwood and Mr. J. S. McNeill; Miss Fannie Williams and Professor J. A. Jones; Miss Fannie Kyle and Mr. Hal Elliott; Miss Lina Pemberton and Mr. G. B. Underwood; Miss Alice Matthews and Mr. James McKee; Miss Marion Mallett and Mr. Charles Haigh; Miss Eliza C. C. Rose; Miss McKay and Mr. Williams and Mr. E. R. McKethan; Mrs. J. A. Moore and Mr. P. W. Haigh; Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Strange, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Williams, Mrs. J. B. Underwood.

After the german, at the handsome family residence of Gillespie street, Misses Eliza, Fannie and Mary Williams entertained at supper a party of friends, complimentary to Miss Wheeler, of Fairbault, Minn., the charming niece of Mr. A. H. Slocumb, as follows: Misses Lillian Slocumb, McKay, Bessie Underwood, Mrs. J. D. Williams; Messrs. R. L. Williams, H. M. Pemberton, A. S. Williams, H. L. Myrover, of Jacksonville, Fla., A. B. Williams, Jr., C. G. Rose, A. R. Williams, L. B. Hale. Mr. John Guy, of Cumberland Mills, is suffering from a painful pistol wound, through the careless handling and accidental discharge of the weapon by his son.

Mr. L. O. Parrish, general manager of the Norfolk Lumber Company, the plant of which is now building in east Fayetteville, has removed here with his family, to whom our people give hearty welcome.

The Red Springs Military academy and Fayetteville are this afternoon playing the second of a series of match base ball games at the Gillespie Street park.

Rev. C. G. Vardell, president of Red Springs Female seminary, came up this morning on his way to the educational meeting at Athens, Ga., which Governor Aycock also goes to attend.

Mr. Arnold Borden, a prominent business man of Goldsboro, has been in the city for the past day or two, and has many friends here.

Mrs. George Miller, of Goldsboro, has been making a visit to Miss Della McTear and Mrs. Carson on Gillespie street.

Sheriff G. B. McLead, of Robeson county, was here to attend the good roads and educational conventions yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Evans are visiting Mrs. Newby at Sanford.

Mrs. J. A. Moore, of Tarboro, is among the warmly welcomed visitors to Fayetteville.

A deal is consummated by which the Merchants' Trust Company, of New York, becomes the owner of the leading electric railway, light and power companies of Richmond, Va., and the consolidation of all the companies in that section will follow as a result. About \$20,000,000 is involved.

YARN MILLS COMBINATION.

The Meeting at Charlotte—Mr. Underwood's Proposition.

Charlotte, N. C., April 23.—Over 100 men, from six states, representing over 700,000 yarn spindles, met in Charlotte today to hear the details of the proposition of F. L. Underwood, of No. 31 Nassau street, New York, who wishes to combine 60 per cent, or more of the southern yarn mills in a \$50,000,000 trust. Just before adjournment the mill men unanimously voted for a resolution declaring the wisdom of an amalgamation of their interests and a great majority of the spinners voted to recommend that the proposal of Mr. Underwood be favorably considered by the stockholders of the southern yarn mills.

Mr. Underwood says he is delighted with the reception accorded him by the mill men, and is confident that the big merger will be effected.

At a meeting in the forenoon Mr. Underwood repeated his proposition which is, in effect, that he will agree to pay to all of the yarn mill owners a price to be agreed upon by the committee to be selected by the mill owners, with his approval, but it is stipulated that such price shall not be in excess of 220 per cent, of the fair cash cost of replacing the property; payment to be made in one-half preferred and one-half common stock. He informed the spinners that he and his associates were prepared to effect the combination and were prepared to put up \$5,000,000 as working capital within ten days, if need be. Referring to the indebtedness of the mills he stated that any mill could either pay its debts and the purchaser would assume the indebtedness and issue the new value of the mill in stock. The mills in the combination would have the advantage of having their stock listed and their sales would be in the hands of one selling agency, thus reducing needless competition. The preferred stock, Mr. Underwood said would be 7 per cent, cumulative stock and not in the nature of a lien or a mortgage.

Contracts which were submitted to the spinners state that the delivery of the mills must be made on or before January, 1903. The mill men will take these contracts home, and announce their decision after a consultation with the directors and stockholders of their various companies.

Despite their vote, a number of mill men questioned the success of Mr. Underwood's plan. They maintain that it is a new thing and too big to be digested or sanctioned within a twelve month. Yet all the spinners agree in saying that the yarn mills have been steadily losing money since December, 1901, and that if a consolidation of some kind is not effected, then many southern yarn mills will be forced to close down or be ruined.

"The yarn men may or may not accept Mr. Underwood's plan," said Dr. J. H. McAden, president of the Southern Cotton Spinners' Association, but a trust or merger is necessary for their economic salvation."

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.

Annual Meeting of the Southern Railway—Branch Lines Consolidated.

Richmond, Va., April 23.—A general meeting of the stockholders of the Southern Railway Company was held at the office of the company in this city today, the entire stock of the company being represented. The following business was transacted:

The number of directors to be elected at the next annual meeting of stockholders was increased from eleven, the present number, to twelve.

The directors then selected to be classified into three classes of four directors each, the terms of office of the directors of the first class to expire in 1903, those of the second class in 1904, and those of the third class in 1905.

The approval of the consolidation or merger with each other of the capital stocks, franchises and properties of the Asheville and Spartanburg Railroad Company, the Carolina Midland Railway Company, the South Carolina and Georgia Extension Railroad Company, and the lease of such consolidated railroads to the Southern Railway Company.

HILL AND BRYAN.

Letters to Democratic Meeting of a New York Assembly District.

New York, April 23.—Writing to the democrats of the Thirty-first assembly district, which held a Jefferson celebration tonight William J. Bryan said in part:

"It is especially appropriate that the principles of Jefferson should be studied at this time, for they can be applied to every condition and will furnish a solution of every problem that now confronts us. His principles forbid legislation designed to enrich the few at the expense of the many, and while he wanted a government that would restrict the citizens as little as possible, he always favored sufficient restriction to protect every citizen from every arm uplifted for his injury."

Part of the letter from David B. Hill says:

"The revival of interest at this time in Jeffersonian principles of democracy is very encouraging. Now is the time to prepare for the next campaign. The democracy is united for personal liberty, for home rule, for equal taxation, for the abolition of war taxes in times of peace, for revenue reform, for constitutional freedom wherever the American flag floats and for liberal laws everywhere."